
Subject: Re: importing ascii files
Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Thu, 11 Jul 2002 21:51:54 GMT
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Heather wrote:

>
> We have a program written in IDL that extracts data and puts it into a
> text file. We want to put the columns of the text file into some kind
> of storage device so that we can access the columns separately in
> another IDL program. We are trying to write a program that
> incorporates the import_ascii macro, but are open to any other ideas
> at this point.
>
> Heather

Dear Heather,

import_ascii will be very slow by large arrays because it
reads not the whole data as an array.
And if you later like to use it by runtime it won't work
because the structure is defined by execute.

Before read_ascii was developed by RSI I have written
a full automatic data reader.

It finds itself where comments and data are.

It reads all data which is organized with comments, columns of numbers
and probably at the end comments again.

The result could be something like this:

```
; EXAMPLE:
; result=read_data_file('dat.txt')
; help,result,/str
;** Structure <135d458>, 5 tags, length=104, refs=1:
; FILE      STRING  'dat.txt'
; SEPARATOR  STRING  ','
; DATA      DOUBLE  Array[3, 3]
; COMMENTS   LONG    1
; HEADER     STRING  Array[1]
```

You'll find it here:

http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl_icglib/idl_source/idl_html/dbase/download/read_data_file.tar.gz

regards

Reimar

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a IDL library at ForschungsZentrum Juelich
http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg1/idl_icglib/idl_lib_intro.h_tml

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